

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A sealing element which is interposed between the opening face of a fitted element and fitting element and elastically deformable so as to seal ~~prevent leakage from the~~ an interior and entrance from ~~the~~ an exterior, comprising:
  - an endless portion;
  - a flexible protruding part projected approximately obliquely outwards from the periphery of the endless portion; and
  - a coupling feature having ~~a fitting means having a notch or projection~~ protruding part formed on at least one of the obverse and reverse sides of the endless portion, ~~and wherein a rounded projection is formed at a distal end of the protruding part~~

the protruding part directed obliquely and outwards with respect to an open front of the fitted element, forming a substantially acute angle between the protruding part or its extension and the contact surface of the open front of the fitted element, the protruding part becoming flexed outwards with respect to the open front of the fitted element when the fitting element is closed, thus making the fitting element to seal the open front of the fitted element by contact with a curved portion of the protruding part.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Currently Amended) The sealing element according to claim 1, wherein the ~~fitting means~~ coupling feature comprises a plurality of fitting ribs, and among the plurality of fitting ribs, the fitting rib located closest to the entrance side of a fit-holding portion formed on the opening face of the fitted element or on the fitting element side are higher than those located on the interior side of the fit-holding portion.

4. (Currently Amended) The sealing element according to claim 12, wherein the ~~fitting means~~ coupling feature comprises a plurality of fitting ribs, and among the plurality of fitting ribs, the fitting rib located closest to the entrance side of a fit-holding portion formed on the opening face of the fitted element or on the fitting element side are higher than those located on the interior side of the fit-holding portion.
5. (Original) The sealing element according to claim 1, wherein the protruding part is set curved inwardly in the direction of squeezing so that the curved portion of the protruding part comes into contact with the contact surface of the fitted element or the contact surface of the fitting element.
6. (Previously Amended) The sealing element according to claim 12, wherein the protruding part is set curved inwardly in the direction of squeezing so that the curved portion of the protruding part comes into contact with the contact surface of the fitted element or the contact surface of the fitting element.
7. (Original) The sealing element according to claim 3, wherein the protruding part is set curved inwardly in the direction of squeezing so that the curved portion of the protruding part comes into contact with the contact surface of the fitted element or the contact surface of the fitting element.
8. (Original) The sealing element according to claim 4, wherein the protruding part is set curved inwardly in the direction of squeezing so that the curved portion of the protruding part comes into contact with the contact surface of the fitted element or the contact surface of the fitting element.



12. (Currently Amended) The sealing element according to claim 1, wherein a vertical wall or projection having a vertical wall for positioning is formed on ~~the inner side wall of the sealing~~ an opposite wall of the protruding element.